



Mineral Industry Surveys

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MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK IN FEBRUARY 2003

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in February 2003 decreased 21% from the prior month, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). The significant decrease was caused by the combination of the temporary closures of two mines and reduced output at several others. Annualized production for the year was 32.2 million metric tons (Mt), which was about 9% lower than in 2002.

Domestic phosphate rock sold or used for February decreased 3% from the prior month, to 2.76 Mt. Annualized sales or use for the year was 34.7 Mt, which was slightly lower than in 2002. U.S. producer ending stocks for February decreased about 5% from those in January 2003.

Some phosphate rock import data for Morocco were suppressed by the U.S. Census Bureau. The USGS estimates that the 2002 U.S. import tonnage of phosphate rock was 2.7Mt or an average 225,000 tons per month.

February import data were not available at the time of publication. Domestic consumption for 2003 is estimated to be 37.4 Mt, using annualized sales and use data and estimated trade data. Apparent domestic consumption for 2002 calculated from the sum of home deliveries and adjusted trade data was 37.5 Mt.

IMC Phosphates MP Inc. temporarily closed its Fort Green Mine in Florida to reduce stocks of phosphate rock. The company said the mine would be closed for at least 3 months beginning in February (IMC Global Inc., 2003).

Reference Cited

IMC Global Inc., 2003, IMC Global reports reduced 2002 fourth quarter loss from continuing operations: Lake Forest, IL, IMC Global Inc. press release, January 30, 6 p.

TABLE 1
U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS, BY REGION 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Marketable production			Sold and/or used			Ending stocks 2/		
	Florida and North Carolina	Idaho and Utah	U.S. total	Florida and North Carolina	Idaho and Utah	U.S. total	Florida and North Carolina	Idaho and Utah	U.S. total
2002 p/:									
January-February	4,780	625	5,400	4,770	823	5,590	XX	XX	XX
February	2,230	312	2,540	2,300	425	2,720	5,770	1,810	7,580
March	2,700	167	2,870	2,610	353	2,970	5,940	1,620	7,560
April	2,570	242	2,810	2,520	413	2,930	5,990	1,440	7,430
May	2,650	635	3,280	2,570	388	2,960	6,040	1,690	7,730
June	2,480	531	3,010	2,470	365	2,840	5,940	1,860	7,800
July	2,550	497	3,050	2,560	517	3,070	6,180	1,840	8,020
August	2,690	694	3,380	2,590	352	2,940	6,360	2,170	8,530
September	2,490	472	2,960	2,420	378	2,800	6,420	2,270	8,690
October	2,580	450	3,030	2,530	375	2,900	6,510	1,440	7,950
November	2,530	366	2,900	2,460	502	2,960	6,590	2,210	8,810
December	2,450	362	2,810	2,390	448	2,840	6,540	2,120	8,670
January-December p/	30,500	5,040	35,500	29,900	4,910	34,800	XX	XX	XX
2003:									
January	2,580	333	2,910	2,420	425	2,850	6,650	2,030	8,680
February	1,970	321	2,290	2,300	465	2,760	6,320	1,890	8,210
Total	4,550	654	5,200	4,720	890	5,610	XX	XX	XX

p/ Preliminary. XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes inventory adjustments.

TABLE 2
U.S. IMPORTS OF PHOSPHATE ROCK 1/ 2/

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Period	Quantity	Value
2002:		
January	118	5,650
February	29	784
March	142	6,000
April	145	6,400
May	78	2,440
June	111	5,370
July	110	4,900
August	142	5,560
September	112	4,910
October	124	5,270
November	86	2,370
December	127	5,230
January-December	1,320	54,900
Total year 3/	2,700	112,000
2003: 4/		
January	65	1,790

1/ C.i.f (cost, insurance, and freight) values at U.S. ports.

2/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

3/ Includes an estimate for data suppressed by the U.S. Census Bureau.

4/ Data for the current month were not available at time of publication.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; data on the majority of phosphate rock imports from Morocco were suppressed by Census.

TABLE 3
COMPARATIVE U.S PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS

(Million metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2001	2002 p/	2003 e/ 1/
Marketable production:			
Florida and North Carolina	W	30.5	28.1
Idaho and Utah	W	5.0	4.0
Total 2/	31.9	35.5	32.2
Sold or used by producers:			
Florida and North Carolina	28.1	29.9	29.2
Idaho and Utah	4.7	4.9	5.5
Total 2/	32.8	34.8	34.7
Yearend stocks	7.5	8.7	8.2
Exports 3/	--	--	--
Average value per ton	NA	--	--
Imports for consumption e/	2.5	2.7	2.7
Average value per ton	\$49.30	\$41.45	NA
Apparent consumption e/ 4/	35.3	37.5	37.4

e/ Estimated. p/ Preliminary. NA Not available. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data. -- Zero.

1/ Annualized data.

2/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

3/ Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2001, reported by producers in 2002-03.

4/ Calculated as domestic sold or used plus imports minus exports.